News Notes
from the COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.
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addressed to those who are concerned with Christianity and Higher Education

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IN APPRECIATION OF ALEXANDER "LEX" MILLER

We had expected many more years of fellowship with "Lex" Miller, more books from his pen, more assistance from his leadership in the cause of a constructive relation between faith and learning. But this was not to be. The Lord to whom he rendered such genuine obedience called him elsewhere. We could dwell upon the loss but would rather express gratitude for being privileged to know, to work with, and to call friend such a choice spirit.

We have known few men for whom Christian faith seemed so genuine, so natural, so central to the purposes for which he lived, yet who carried his faith so lightly and so easily. He made the phrases "Make me captive Lord and then I shall be free," "The freedom of the Christian man" credible.

We have known few men who could so clearly articulate the meaning of the faith that was in them and for whom the faith made such obvious sense. The rational structure of his faith seemed so clear and obvious to "Lex" that some who did not know him well and were unaware of the complexities of his thought sometimes accused him of dogmatism. Probably more would have had they not been disarmed by the easy, genial manner, the relaxed chuckle, and the obvious respect he had for the opinion of others.

We have known few men who worked so hard, so steadily, and seemingly so effortlessly. We now know that the easy acceptance of the tasks laid upon him was done at a cost and some of us regret that we were not more thoughtful and considerate of the strength of one whose strength seemed limitless, with generosity to match. The only excuse is that so often "Lex" was the obvious man to do the job, he did it so well, and demurred so diffidently that we allowed our concerns to silence our concern.

We have known few men with whom we have felt so much at ease, whose acceptance of us seemed so genuine, whose respect came so simply yet was valued so highly. Again he made a well-worn phrase credible. The "acceptance" he seemed to feel perhaps accounts for the "acceptance" he gave so freely so that while he stood firmly for his convictions and welcomed the struggle of intellectual encounter, he never gave an impression of rancour or personal animosity. He spoke the truth as he saw it, in love.

Our hearts go out to Jean and David with the prayer that comfort and strength will be given them in difficult days. They and we have lost one who lived the quotation he placed on the fly-leaf of the last book he wrote at the request of the National Student Christian Federation: "To think well is to serve God in the interior court."

STIMULATING DISCUSSION MATERIAL AVAILABLE

Our good friend, Miller Upton, President of Beloit College and of the Council of Protestant Colleges called our attention recently to some excellent student discussion material. It is a series of filmed discussions of serious contemporary problems prepared by Huston Smith (Professor of Philosophy MIT) for TV showing. They grew out of a request to Dr. Smith that he undertake a study of American Values. He teamed up with Dr. Ralph Patrick, a social scientist.

"The social scientist would concentrate on the 'is' of American values, the humanist on their 'ought.' The result is a series, 'The Search for America,' which is composed of two halves. The first sixteen programs employ the sociological concept of 'role' to lift to attention the values currently animating American life. The second sixteen seek identity through sense of direction. .....it tries to discover who we are by asking what we would like to become. The premise is that identity, national as well as personal, is related to expectation; one of the best clues to what an individual or group is, is what it hopes for and aspires to be. .....It is written for a dual audience. For those in a position to follow 'The Search for America' television series or wishing to use its films in connection with college courses or as the basis for adult discussion groups....."

The first set dealing with "what American values are" is available from Mr. Marvin Dawson, National Educational Television Film Service, Audio-Visual Center, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. The second set dealing with "The Sense of Direction" includes interviews with Reinhold Neibuhr, Paul Tillich, John K. Galbraith. The films are available at the same address. The second set has a paperback book supplement. "The Search for America," Spectrum Books S-9, Prentice-Hall.

THE AGE OF THE MEMORABLE SPEECH

Perhaps indicative of some of the fresh thinking is this quotation from Galbraith. "The genuine and valuable concern over education which developed after the Sputnik took flight was also the victim of another of the disturbing tendencies of our time. That is for speech to become almost completely divorced from consequence. President Eisenhower, it has often been said, clearly feels that a long and heartfelt statement of his concern for a problem is a substitute for doing anything about it. In defense of the President, I think it must be said that he faithfully reflects a tendency in the country at large. Once men said what they were going to do. Now, they consider it sufficient to say what should be done. Speech was once a portent of action. It has become a substitute.

"As speech has become an end in itself, we have come increasingly to concentrate our energies on the magnificence, or anyhow the grandiloquence of expression. We live in the era of the memorable speech. If a man cannot be practical, he at least can be memorable. I could perhaps enlarge on the components of the memorable speech. Its principle ingredients are fanciful exaggeration, foolish prophecy and silly heroics in about that order of importance, although in recent years there has been increasing resort to extreme piety. But I do not need to go farther. Our concern for education after the Sputnik was partly buried by a crushing avalanche of memorable speeches."

R. E. WEEK EXPERIMENT

The University Christian Mission has a very interesting report on the Sixth Biennial Conference at Princeton University under the general theme of Religion and the Arts. Like many on other campuses the Princeton Christian Association had grown dissatisfied with the traditional Religious Emphasis Week and was experimenting with something new and different. We haven't got the space here to describe the conference in detail but suggest that those interested in a different and unique experiment should write to the University Christian Mission, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York and get a copy of the report.

REMINDERS OF GOOD THINGS COMING UP:

- Church College Public Relations Officer's Conference
  July 10, Washington, D. C.
  Speakers, Martin E. Marty and James Godard
  Denominational luncheons

- Joint Campus Ministry Conference
  Naperville, Ohio
  July 7 - 14

- Methodist Institute on Higher Education
  July 25 - 27
  Nashville, Tennessee

- United Campus Christian Fellowship Uniting Assembly
  July 25 - September 1

- Danforth Associates Conference
  August 29 - September 4
  George Buttrick, Milton Yinger

- Southern States Faculty Conference
  August 29, September 2
  Lake Junaluska

- N. S. C. F. Assembly, I.S.M. Triennial
  September 5 - 12

MANPOWER FACTS OF INTEREST TO EDUCATION

Education USA comes up with some interesting excerpts from a report of the U.S. Dept. of Labor regarding "Manpower: Challenge of the 1960's."

- We can expect an increase in population of 15% or from 180 million to 209 million.
- An increase in the labor force of 20% or from 73 million to 87 million.
- An increase in the number of high school students of 50% from 9 million to 13 million.
- An increase in the number of college students of 70% - 3.8 million to 6.4 million.

This means some radical changes in our employment structure. We will need 13½ million more jobs by 1970, but between now and then machines will cut down the number of jobs available. On the other hand demands for services will probably increase. Thus it is expected that the trend toward white collar jobs will continue as will continue the demand for skilled manual workers. "Predicted industrial growth will provide the greatest number of jobs in professional and technical occupations, with sales and clerical employment next."

Workers under 25 years of age will number more than 20 million, 46% of the growth in the labor force. Those 45 years old and over will make up 20%. Women will make up a third of the labor force.

Chancellor H. C. Litchfield of the University of Pittsburgh recently said, "Are you satisfied that we can neglect our superior people to this extent and still effectively compete with the Soviets?" He was referring to the fact that only 47% of the top fifth in high school graduating classes across the nation enter college; in Pennsylvanis, 58% of the capable high school graduates stop short of college.

GOOD WORD FOR TV

At least Bennet Cerf has one good thing to say about television. He claims that the sale of good children's books has multiplied ten fold since the advent of television. He feels that TV has elevated literary tastes, broadened cultural horizons, served as an intellectual tonic. He doesn't tell us what the deleterious effects of the drug ads are.

FILM ON EDUCATION

A new film dramatizing the cost of higher education has been put out by the Council for Financial Aid to Education entitled "Education is Everybody's Business." It has received an enthusiastic response from college presidents, alumni and public relations directors. It is available at $65.00 from the CFAE, 6 East 45th Street, New York 17, New York.

FRESHMAN ORIENTATION AIDS

Much careful thought has gone into the preparation of the "Freshman Issue" of the Intercollegian and the Methodist Freshman publication "Orientation." They may be ordered at special quantity prices from the Intercollegian, 291 Broadway, New York 7, New York and Orientation, 1960 from P.O. Box 871, Nashville 2, Tenn. Now that freshman issues are coming out every year perhaps a cooperative publication would be in order or an agreement whereby each puts one out alternate years.

TV DISCUSSION PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED

NBC-TV has announced a new TV series, The Brass Ring, to be released next fall in connection with Frontiers of Faith and the National Council of Churches. The series, of interest to college students and young adults has been titled "The Brass Ring," a symbol of the many trophies and rewards dangling in front of the young adult. Success, notoriety, and sophistication are some of the "brass rings" which the series hopes to compare with the values of a Christian commitment.

Three programs in the series are planned for showing live on NBC, September 11, 18, and 25, at 5:30 p.m., EDT, and as a delayed program on some local stations. Check time and date of showing in your area with your local station.

A list of questions as "discussion starters" for the series is available from Department of Adult Work, National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York.

H.E. BIBLIOGRAPHY

We have just received a copy of the very useful bibliography prepared by Father George F. Donavan of the Catholic University in America on the subject Selective Readings for American College and University Officers of Administration. Well prepared with the administration officers in mind it is a good general bibliography and as the author says - selective. It does not cover all the works, but does cover many of the best and most useful. It is available from the Department of Higher Education, N. C. E. A., Washington, D.C.

GOD MAN AND SATAN

Active in many aspects of the Commission on Higher Education's Life and work is Roland M. Frye, Professor of English at Emory University. It is thus a pleasure to call attention to his new book "GOD, MAN AND SATAN", Princeton University Press, 1960. "Patterns of Christian Thought and Life in Paradise Lost, Pilgrim's Progress, and the Great Theologians."

MORE ON STUDENT ATTITUDES

The most recent book on student attitudes and values is "WHAT STUDENTS THINK," about love, marriage, education, religion, society and life goals. This is a study by a team of Cornell Sociologists of eleven universities believed to be "the most influential types.....not the most representative." Van Nostrand Press, 1960.

THEOLOGY AT HOME

Bob Allard of the University of Chicago asks for mention of the new program of graduate level offerings for Theological home study. Perry LeFevre offers a course, "Introduction to Religious Existentialism" dealing with Berdyaev, Bultmann, Marcel and Buber. (Box R, Home-Study Dept., University of Chicago, Chicago 27, Illinois.

Hubert C. Noble, General Director